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# Counsellor

PUBLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS IN THE INTERESTS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Vol. 4 No. 4

EDMONTON, ALBERTA

April, 1959

## MORE ABOUT THE BUDGET SPEECH

### VOTE IN TWO COUNTIES

Ratepayers of the County of Thorhild No. 7 voted overwhelmingly March 21 to retain the county form of government. The district has been a county since January 1, 1955.

The recent vote—809 for and 142 against retention of the county system—was the result of a petition signed by a minimum of 10 per cent of the proprietary electors as required under an 1958 amendment to the County Act of 1950. Under the original Act, such a vote was mandatory after four years' experience as a county. The amendment provides that no vote need be taken unless called for by petition. Thorhild County is the first to take advantage of the new provision.

Prior to the Thorhild voting, the County of Athabasca No. 12 (Alberta's newest county) went to the polls on March 7. In a 69% vote, the following were elected to the county council:

Mr. Krajacic (former councillor), D. Lechky, Ed. Parr (former school division board member), N. Symyrozum, J. Shimonichek (former councillor), J. Davidiuk, E. Loxam (former councillor) and G. Weldon. Mr. A. Aloisio, former M.L.A. and councillor for 22 years, was elected by acclamation. ●

### MCBEATH RETIRES



J.R. McBEATH

Retiring on April 30 as chairman of the Special Areas Board at Hanna is John Robert McBeath. A successor is expected to be named prior to that date. Mr. McBeath has been with the Board as member since 1942, but has served as its chairman only since January 1, 1958.

A native of Caithness, Scotland, Mr. McBeath was born February 18, 1893. After leaving school, he became a general merchant at Wick, Scotland. At the age of thirty he left the Old Country for Canada, settling in south Alberta where he engaged in sheep ranching, - later farming at Turin, northwest of Taber. He joined the government service in September, 1942, while the Special Areas Board was still being administered by the Department of Lands and Mines.

Mr. McBeath served with the 51st Highland Division, 7th Black Watch, from 1914 to 1919. He is a member of the Canadian Legion and the Lions Club. In his younger days, he did some amateur boxing and wrestling, but nowadays confines his athletics to gardening and golf.

Mr. and Mrs. McBeath plan to live in Lethbridge after his retirement. Their fiftieth wedding anniversary is coming soon and they are looking forward to a gathering of the McBeath Clan. With 5 sons, 6 daughters, 38 grandchildren and one great grandchild, it will no doubt be a large and happy celebration. ●

### QUOTES OF INTEREST

(The following excerpts are taken from the 1959 Budget Speech as pertaining specifically to Alberta municipalities. The Speech was delivered to the Legislative Assembly by Hon. E. W. Hinman, Provincial Treasurer, on February 20).

MR. SPEAKER:

Once again it becomes my duty to remind this Assembly of the necessity of voting the sums which are found to be required to defray the costs of public services, and so, Mr. Speaker, I move that you do now leave the chair and that this Assembly resolve itself into a Committee of Supply for the consideration of the sums to be granted to Her Majesty.

\* \* \* \*

Alberta municipalities, for the first time in many years dependent on the open market for the sale of debentures, have felt the full impact of higher costs all along the line. There is some evidence that municipal authorities are giving a lot more consideration to spending programs and that future expansion will be kept close to minimum.

\* \* \* \*

Notwithstanding the somewhat gloomy picture facing our natural resources, and the resultant loss of revenue, it is the Government's announced intention to maintain our economy and standards at a level in keeping with our natural growth and development. During the past few years, we have accumulated a substantial reserve despite the fact that we have reduced our debt to a nominal amount and provided services second to none in Canada. It is our stated policy to draw on these reserves to the extent necessary to maintain, and I think I may safely say, to improve on our already high standards without contributing to inflationary pressures. You are all familiar with the five (More on Page 5)



**WE HAVE VISITORS**—First year Education students from the University of Alberta visited the Department in March. The tour, arranged by Professor B. Y. Card (left) was designed to promote interest in municipal affairs. (See picture story on Page 8).



# THE SECOND PAGE . . .

John Ruskin defines

## EDUCATION

Education does not mean teaching people what they do not know.

It means teaching them to behave as they do not behave.

It is not teaching the youth the shapes of letters and the tricks of numbers, and then leaving them to turn their arithmetic to roguery, and their literature to lust.

It means, on the contrary, training them into the perfect exercise and kingly continence of their bodies and souls.

It is a painful, continual, and difficult work to be done by kindness, by watching, by warning, by precept, and by praise, but above all — by example. -Ideals

## WORTHWHILE VISIT

Last year about this time we noted with considerable satisfaction the attention which was being focussed on local government matters by instructors in Edmonton over at the University. It's happening again this year. We believe it's a splendid thing because it should mean that young graduate teachers are going into the schools of Alberta equipped with an interest in municipal affairs and prepared, consequently, to awaken a similar interest in their classes.

It was with pleasure, therefore, that the Department recently welcomed a group of about 35 young people who in the course of time will be guiding still younger people in the way they should go. Their visit was all too brief, and we shall blame no one if they left the Highways Building here somewhat confused by the barrage of facts and figures fired at them from close range. Nevertheless we hope their first look behind the scenes of the Department will be pleasantly remembered and that it will give them pegs on which to hang such items as assessments (equalized and otherwise), mill rates, tax recovery procedures, municipal inspections, counties, improvement districts, the Special Areas ... and so many more.

A small bouquet to the teachers-in-training whose attitude and potential, it seemed to us, leaves little to be desired. And to Professor Card, whose idea prompted the visit, our thanks for an effort which we believe was well worth while.

We must try it again ... next year.

## THE CHANGING SCENE

### VILLAGE OF DEWBERRY

Mayor ..... W. A. Purser

### SUMMER VILLAGE OF EDMONTON BEACH

Secretary-Treasurer ..... Mrs. D. Bastock,  
11635 - 130 St. Edmonton

### VILLAGE OF GIBBONS

Secretary-Treasurer ..... J. Mac Quest  
Mayor ..... A. Loblick

### VILLAGE OF GLENDON

Secretary-Treasurer ..... L.F. Krawchuk

### VILLAGE OF MIRROR

Mayor ..... Helen Simpson

### SUMMER VILLAGE OF SUNSET POINT

Secretary-Treasurer ..... L. Dear, Edmonton

### VILLAGE OF WHITECOURT

Secretary-Treasurer ..... C. McIlwaine  
Mayor ..... C.M. Feero

### TOWN OF MONTGOMERY

Mayor ..... C.C. Wyldman

## PLANNING SERVICES OUTLINED

A comprehensive and detailed analysis of town planning was presented (in February) by Oldman River District Planning Director S. J. Clarke at a dinner meeting staged by the commission to acquaint municipal officials in Southern Alberta with the commission.

Guests at the dinner included municipal representatives from Cardston, Raymond, County of Warner, Nanton, the Crow's Nest Pass, Pincher Creek, Coaldale, Picture Butte, Claresholm, representatives of the Lethbridge and District Chamber of Commerce and members of the commission staff.

Major achievement of the Oldman River District Planning Commission, Mr. Clarke said, has been bringing together different municipalities and creation of the basis of an unique spirit of cooperation, of an understanding of each other's problems and functions, of realizing that the efficiency and improvement of each community's development is an integral part in the region's development and welfare and bringing into focus the realities of the coming challenge as South Alberta moves into a new era of pioneering and industrial progress.

"Planning allows us to make a wise alliance with circumstances," Mr. Clarke stated.

He told the municipal executives that the commission now sees the way clear to offer its services to the other municipalities in the region who have the right to request them. He stressed that it is a regional commission and has no particular brief for any municipality.

Members of the commission at the present time include the village of Picture Butte and Nobleford, the town of Coaldale, the municipal district of Lethbridge No. 25 and the city of Lethbridge.

## OUTLINES SERVICES

In outlining some of the services given by the commission, he stated that eventually a general plan for development over the next 20 years is drawn up for each community and the plan is subject to revision each five years.

As part of this plan, he continued, there is a comprehensive zoning by-law which will contain the means and standards of regulating development. Land values are stabilized, road systems gradually developed in a proper manner, traffic control rationalized, parks, schools and shopping centres located on the most efficient sites and a financial program for municipal improvements drawn up based upon the proposals contained in the plan. The financial program, Mr. Clarke said, is a new aspect of town planning.

With membership in the planning commission, the director stated, subdivision and replanning design is vastly improved, both from the point of view of appearance and economy and industrial areas are designed and industrial promotion encouraged by the providing of up-to-date facilities which give the community some standing in the competitive field of industrial location.

## IMMEDIATE HELP

The professional services of the commission's staff are immediately available at a local level to help solve the many problems of land use, traffic flow and road design, he told the meeting.

He stressed to the municipal executives that the commission is advisory and the municipality has the last word. Each municipality will continue firmly to control its own destiny, he stated.

Commission chairman Ald. Reg Turner told the meeting that the commission will send a delegation to any municipal council meetings in South Alberta to acquaint the councils with the advantages of belonging to the commission.

He stated there are three diseases in a town or city, "sprawl, obsolescence and congestion." The regional concept of planning will tackle these three diseases, Mr. Turner stated. -Lethbridge Herald

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Edmonton, Alberta.



... ALBERTA WAS ONCE AGAIN IN THE LEAD IN DEALING WITH

DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS FACED BY ALL THE LARGER CITIES OF THE CONTINENT."

## REPORT ON

## THE PROVINCIAL PLANNING

# ADVISORY BOARD

Planning in Alberta dates back to 1913 when an Act was passed providing for the first planning studies of Edmonton and Calgary. These were not adopted officially and the Act of 1913 seems to have had little practical effect.

The first effective legislation in the Province was the Town Planning Act of 1929 under which the Town and Rural Planning Advisory Board was established. The Board was composed of eight members of the public from various parts of the Province and representing a variety of interests, together with Mr. C. Lionel Gibbs, a member of the legislature and a trained architect, as Chairman, and Mr. Horace L. Seymour as Director of Town Planning and Executive Member of the Board. By December 1931, an impressive beginning had been made on planning in both urban and rural areas of the Province. Nineteen planning commissions had been appointed, including the cities of Calgary, Drumheller, Edmonton, Red Deer and Wetaskiwin, twelve towns and two villages. General Planning studies were completed for thirty-seven municipalities (2 cities, 18 towns, 15 villages and 2 hamlets) and were in progress for fifteen others. The legislation had already received favorable comment outside the Province, and had been commended at two conferences of urban and rural municipalities in the Province by a resolution "that the activities of the Town and Rural Planning Advisory Board be encouraged as a most desirable economic measure."

### CHANGES MADE

However, in the spring of 1932 the Director of Town Planning and his staff retired. The office of the Director was removed from the Department of Municipal Affairs to the office of the Highway Commissioner, and later to the office of the Director of Surveys. The original Board ceased to meet, and was replaced in 1934 by a Board of 4 or 5 public officials, with the Minister of Public Works as chairman, and the Highway Commissioner as Director of Town Planning. This Board met infrequently during the depression, post-depression and war years, dealing with the erection and operation of gasoline filling stations, the review of zoning by-laws and amendments, the licensing and control of outdoor advertising, and the approval of subdivision plans and transfers of small parcels of land.

Towards the end of the war the number of subdivision plans increased rapidly, as did requests from municipalities for assistance on development plans and zoning by-laws. An extensive report from the Director of Town Planning in 1946 reviewed the increasing difficulties being experienced in the administration of the Act and Regulations, and recommended the re-establishment of a separate Town Planning Branch. Action on this recommendation had to wait until 1950, when important amendments were made to the Act, giving effect to recommendations in a report by Professors Bland and Spence-Sales of McGill University on planning administration in the Province.

The amendments of 1950 drastically changed the nature of planning activity in the Province, and resulted in the establishment of a new Board as well as a separate Town and Rural Planning Branch within the Department of Municipal Affairs. The new Board - now called the Provincial Planning Advisory Board - consisted of the Minister and

the Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs and a new Director of Town and Rural Planning. Provision was also made for the establishment of District Planning Commissions for regions of common interests and problems, and the organization of Technical Planning Boards for the cities. New administrative machinery was thus provided for making planning more effective at municipal level, and for creating a regional and provincial framework conducive to sound municipal planning, and capable of dealing with the accelerated development which followed the discovery of the Leduc oilfield.

The following years saw the establishment of six District Planning Commissions and two Technical Planning Boards with their own qualified staff, contributing to the growing competence of municipalities to control land use and evolve suitable plans for future development. The staff of the Board, forming the Town and Rural Planning Branch of the Department of Municipal Affairs, was gradually increased and carried out a rapidly increasing volume of work providing planning services of all kinds in answer to requests from municipalities, and preparing and administering plans for development of several new towns, as well as administering the Subdivision and Transfer Regulations. The Board's work as the appeal body under the Subdivision Regulations and under many zoning by-laws increased considerably, in addition to its general responsibilities for encouraging the development of sound planning practices throughout the Province, and its new responsibilities under the New Towns Act.

### McNALLY REPORT

The next major changes occurred in 1956 and 1957 as a result of the report of the Royal Commission on the Metropolitan Development of Edmonton and Calgary. A new Part IV on District Planning was added to the Act to make possible effective planning for areas larger than individual municipalities. For the first time groups of municipalities were given the power to prepare plans broadly controlling the major types of land use for the whole planning district surrounding the major cities. Effective recognition was thus given to the need for dealing comprehensively with the problems generated throughout the whole metropolitan area as the result of the large and rapid growth of these centres. With these measures, Alberta was once again in the lead in dealing with development problems faced by all the larger cities of the continent. Coinciding with these changes were changes in Board membership which included the retirement of the Minister of Municipal Affairs from the Board, and the addition of new members representing the Executive Council and the Department of Highways.

Membership of the Board has twice been increased and now includes Chairman J.H. Holloway, Chairman of the Public Service Commission; A.W. Morrison, Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs; R.M. Putnam, Deputy Minister of Agriculture; C.W. Lester, Director of Surveys; H.L. Hogge, Provincial Sanitary Engineer; V.A. Wood, Director of Lands, Department of Lands and Forests; J.W. Chalmers, Director of School Administration, Department of Education; and R.M. Rookwood, Director of Town and Rural Planning.

Co-ordination with other government departments has extended as the work of the Branch has become better known, and has been facilitated by the broadened membership of the Board.

### DISTRICT PLANNING COMMISSIONS

The most important changes in legislation in 1957 were the amendments which removed Ministerial approval of zoning and interim development by-laws and provided (where the central city has more than 50,000 people) that District Planning Commissions may prepare zoning plans for their districts.

The first of such plans was adopted on January 8, 1958, by a unanimous affirmative vote of the municipalities forming the Edmonton District Planning Commission, and covers the Edmonton Metropolitan area. The result should be a more stable and definite pattern for future land use which should greatly benefit municipalities and private developers in making their own plans for future construction. The importance of this metropolitan plan in guiding the development of the city could be judged from the fact that 34% of all new dwellings in the metropolitan area in 1957 were built outside of the city, compared with only 13% in 1956.

(More on Page 7)

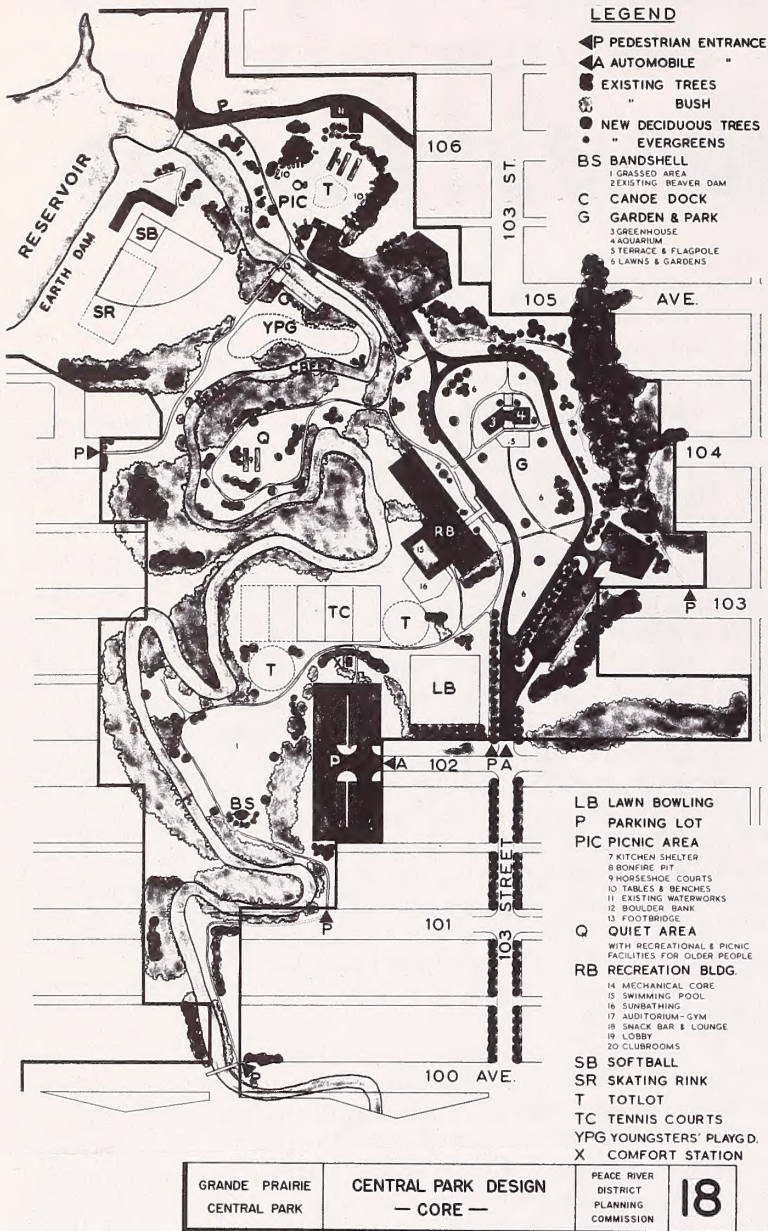


**BOARD MEETING** - Members of the Provincial Planning Advisory Board discuss a proposed new subdivision. From the left are Angus W. Morrison, H.L. Hogge, R.M. Putnam, C.W. Lester, J.H. Holloway (chairman), Dr. V.A. Wood, Dr. J.W. Chalmers and R.M. Rookwood.



PARK IN GRANDE PRAIRIE

LONG IN THE SERVICE



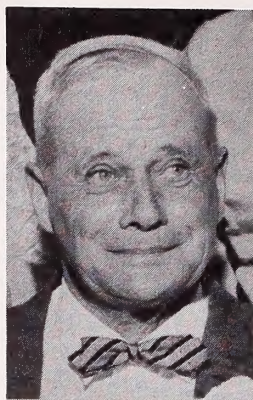
Provisions of the Municipal Winter Works Incentive Program enabled the city of Grande Prairie to make a start on their Bear Creek Park project during the season just ended. The park, ultimately covering 297 acres near the heart of the city is the subject of a comprehensive plan which was recently approved in principle by the City Council. Prepared by the staff of the Peace River District Planning Commission, the 114 page study is profusely illustrated with maps, photographs and charts.

The development study deals with the existing and future needs of Grande Prairie for recreation areas, and outlines principles underlying recreation requirements. It examines the area under consideration for land use, present ownership, zoning, utility service, topography and relationship to a possible greenbelt.

Director of the Peace River District Planning Commission is E. T. Clegg. Mr. Clegg says that while it is not usual to publish such an exhaustive report, much the same research goes into the preparation of most projects of this nature. He hopes that the publication of the impressive document will not only promote interest in the new park, but will assist the understanding of planning principles by residents of the area served by the Commission. It is primarily these people, he says, who will enjoy the objective of the plan: a park development of great and lasting beauty.

In his preface to the book, Mr. Clegg quotes Daniel Burnham's words, "Make big plans; aim high in hope and work ..." The Peace River District Planning Commission and the city of Grande Prairie are unquestionably following this advice.

**HALL OF FAME** - Daniel J. Morkeberg, of Markerville, is the sixth Albertan to be named to the Agricultural Hall of Fame. His picture now hangs in the west wing of the Legislative Building along with Henry Wise Wood, J. H. Johnson, C. S. Noble, Claude Gallinger and Frank Collicutt, all of whom have made outstanding contributions to agriculture in this Province. Mr. Morkeberg, a lifelong dairyman, is a native of Denmark and has lived in Alberta since 1898.



E. W. MILLER

Edwin Walter Miller began his career in municipal service in January, 1912. He is now well into his 48th year as secretary-treasurer and councillor.

Born in Suffolk, England, on June 2, 1887, Mr. Miller came to Alberta at the age of 18 and homesteaded near Sundre. After some years of farming he also became secretary - treasurer of L. I. D. 17-C-5 at a salary of \$125 per annum. In 1913 the district was enlarged from six to nine townships and numbered L. I. D. 312, and in 1918 with the big change-over it became the Municipal District of Waterloo No. 312.

Mr. Miller's salary no doubt changed with the times but the M. D. of Waterloo remained the same until its dissolution in 1954. Upon recommendation of the Coterminal Boundary Commission part of the old district was included in the Municipal District of Mountain View No. 49. At this time, not having a district to serve as secretary, Mr. Miller was elected to the council of Mountain View representing that portion formerly in Waterloo.

During his 42 years as secretary-treasurer, Mr. Miller never missed a council meeting. This record becomes more remarkable in view of the fact that from 1910 to 1935 he also served the U. F. A. local in the same capacity, as well as the James River Agricultural Society (for 15 years) and the local school board.

Mr. Miller was married in 1912 and again in 1937. His five daughters and two sons live at various points in Alberta and British Columbia. They have presented him with 17 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.



SECRETARY'S CALENDAR

Municipal District Act

**Every Month**  
5th-Within 5 days after the end of each month secretary-treasurer shall prepare statement of moneys received and their disposition, submit to council at next meeting and enter a copy in the minutes. Sec. 61(1)(v).

Town and Village Act

**Every Month**  
15th-Secretary-treasurer shall prepare statement of moneys received and their disposition, submit to council at next meeting and enter in minutes. Sec. 67(r).

May 1 - Secretary-treasurer shall prepare tax roll on or before September 1 and mail tax notices. Sec. 368, 370.

April 1 - Not later than April 1 in each year the council shall appoint an auditor. Sec. 73(i).

Secretary-treasurer shall prepare a statement of Provincial Grants and mail them with tax notices. Sec. 370(a).

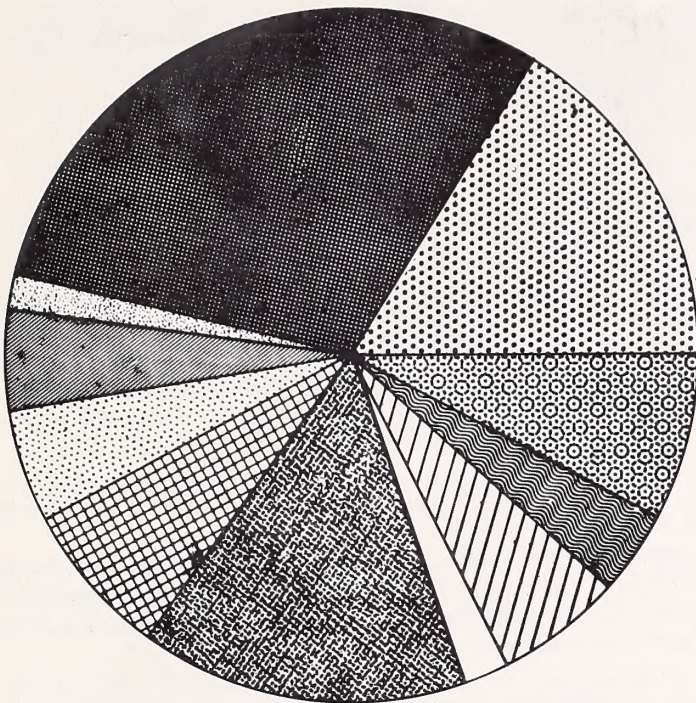
Assessment Act

May 31 - Duties of the Court of Revision must be completed by this date. Sec. 44.

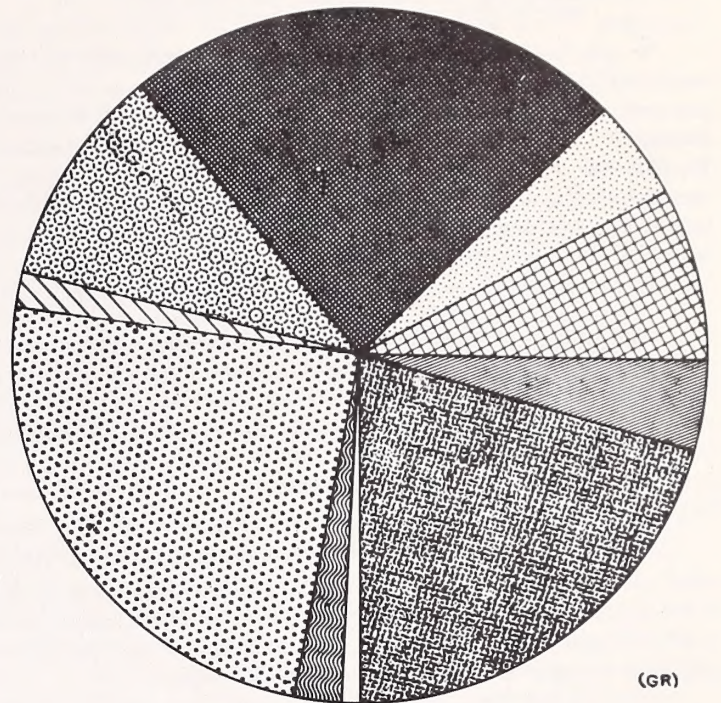
THIS MONTH

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**WHERE IT COMES FROM****... AND WHERE IT GOES****ESTIMATED REVENUES**

|                                |   |                       |   |             |  |
|--------------------------------|---|-----------------------|---|-------------|--|
| TAX RENTAL & SUBSIDIES         | - | \$ 49,325,000         | - | 15.93%      |  |
| FUEL OIL TAX                   | - | \$ 24,000,000         | - | 7.75%       |  |
| HIGHWAYS (MOTOR VEHICLES ECT.) |   | \$ 11,922,900         | - | 3.85%       |  |
| A. L. C. B. PROFITS            | - | \$ 18,000,000         | - | 5.81%       |  |
| LANDS & FORESTS                | - | \$ 7,249,000          | - | 2.34%       |  |
| MINES & MINERALS               | - | \$ 93,360,000         | - | 30.15%      |  |
| HOSPITAL INSURANCE (MUN.)      |   | \$ 5,200,000          | - | 1.68%       |  |
| HOSPITAL INSURANCE (FED.)      |   | \$ 14,500,000         | - | 4.66%       |  |
| TREASURY EARNINGS              | - | \$ 16,138,700         | - | 5.21%       |  |
| ALL OTHERS                     | - | \$ 21,583,630         | - | 6.97%       |  |
| DEFICIT FROM RESERVES          | - | \$ 48,397,128         | - | 15.63%      |  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                   |   | <b>\$ 309,676,358</b> |   | <b>100%</b> |  |

**ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES**

|                                  |   |                       |   |             |  |
|----------------------------------|---|-----------------------|---|-------------|--|
| PUBLIC DEBT                      | - | \$ 2,761,600          | - | 89%         |  |
| * AGRICULTURE                    | - | \$ 6,774,504          | - | 2.19%       |  |
| * EDUCATION                      | - | \$ 74,709,905         | - | 24.13%      |  |
| * HEALTH                         | - | \$ 63,745,800         | - | 20.58%      |  |
| PUBLIC WORKS                     |   | \$ 12,912,460         | - | 4.17%       |  |
| * WELFARE                        | - | \$ 24,764,160         | - | 8%          |  |
| HIGHWAYS (ROADS)                 |   | \$ 72,207,980         | - | 23.32%      |  |
| OTHERS                           | - | \$ 31,800,149         | - | 10.27%      |  |
| LOANS                            | - | \$ 5,000,000          | - | 1.61%       |  |
| MUNICIPALITIES' ASSISTANCE GRANT |   | \$ 15,000,000         | - | 4.84%       |  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                     |   | <b>\$ 309,676,358</b> |   | <b>100%</b> |  |

\* INCLUDES EXPENDITURE FOR CONSTRUCTION

**FROM THE BUDGET ADDRESS**

(From Page 1)

year plan announced by the Honourable the Premier, and later on in this address, I shall deal at greater length with the projects planned for next year and their estimated cost which will form part of the Budget I am now presenting. I think it only proper to mention that our reserves consist mainly of debentures issued by municipalities and school boards in this Province to secure loans from the Government. The principal is repaid annually, for terms up to twenty-five years. Consequently we cannot immediately realize sufficient repayments from these loans to pay for the accelerated program on a pay-as-you-go basis. However, financing can be arranged when necessary and the debt charges thereon will be more than offset by interest and repayments on debentures held in reserves.

To implement this extended program of Government services, I shall present a budget totalling \$309,676,358 made up of \$218,964,824 for ordinary services; \$85,711,534 for capital projects and \$5,000,000 for various loans authorized by statutes. Our total revenues from income and capital accounts are expected to amount to \$261,279,230 which will leave us with an estimated deficit of \$48,397,128 to be financed directly or indirectly from our reserves.

**THE ALBERTA HOSPITALIZATION PLAN**

A significant step was taken by the Government on April 1, 1958, when the Alberta Hospitalization Benefits Act became effective. This Act provides hospitalization to all residents of the Province at a maximum cost to the patient of \$2.00 per day for general ward accommodation. No contracts need to be signed and a free choice of hospitals is available to all residents. The Provincial Government also assumes all or part of the per diem cost for social welfare recipients and arthritic, maternity, polio and cancer cases.

On January 1, 1959, the Government further assumed the responsibility of paying to all hospitals, the annual charges in respect of approved capital costs, which formerly were the responsibility of the hospital boards.

The Government will recover part of the costs incurred under the Alberta Hospitalization Benefits Act by an agreement with the Federal Government whereby Canada will pay approximately 50% of approved hospital operating costs, and by a levy of 4 mills on an equalized assessment basis on municipal councils as their share of both operating and capital costs.

The benefits of this Act for our residents and municipalities can be seen very readily. The former obtain hospitalization at a very low cost, while the latter in exchange for a fixed moderate levy, are relieved of both approved operating and capital costs relating to the hospital in each district.

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Confirming the Government's policy of progressively increasing its financial aid to School Boards and broadening its program of assistance to students, we have requested the very large sum of \$62,849,925 for the Department of Education for the coming year which is 24.88% of our total estimated income receipts. Operational grants to schools will be increased from \$36,500,000 to \$41,000,000. With the payment of these grants, the Government will have assumed nearly one-half of the operational costs of schools for next year. In addition, we have provided \$13,000,000 in construction grants to help meet the cost of building new schools for our growing school population. I think it might be of interest to note that on June 30, 1958, we had on record in our schools, 247,219 students; 8,729 classrooms and 9,970 teachers. The average cost per pupil in 1957 was \$272.66.

(More on Page 6)



FROM THE BUDGET ADDRESS

(From Page 5)

DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

To pay for their share of the Alberta Hospitalization plan, the municipalities levy a rate based on an equalized assessment, and the proceeds are collected by the Department of Municipal Affairs. For the current year the rate was set at 3 mills to produce an estimated \$3,700,000. For 1959, the Government intends to enlarge on its hospitalization plan by assuming the annual debenture costs of approved hospital debts, and will authorize municipalities to increase their hospital requisitions to 4 mills as their share of the full costs. The increased reimbursement is expected to be \$5,200,000.

Expenditures in the Department have been increased to provide a comprehensive system of assessment and town planning facilities for the benefit of all local taxing authorities. Provision is also made for sums of money for the administration of the Board of Public Utility Commissioners, the Special Areas, and for grants to municipalities under the Municipal Winter Works Incentive Program which cannot be finalized in the current fiscal year.

Included in the Department's revenue is an amount \$14,500,000 which we expect to receive from the Federal Government as its share of the hospitalization plan. The share of the municipalities amounting to \$5,200,000 is collected by the Department of Municipal Affairs, making a net cost to the Province of \$20,161,800.

\* \* \* \*

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

For some years the Government has been working progressively towards the goal of making hospital care available to all our residents at a nominal cost. This will now be achieved through the Alberta Hospitalization Plan, whereby the Province pays the ordinary and approved capital costs of all hospitals, except for a maximum deterrent fee of \$2.00 per day from the patient, and a four mill tax levy by local taxing authorities. In most cases involving recipients of social welfare, and maternity, arthritic, cancer and polio patients, the Government pays the deterrent fee and for social welfare recipients, the medical expenses as well. The cost of tuberculosis treatment is assumed entirely by the Province at its two hospitals. The facilities of the two institutions for the care of mental defectives at Red Deer are being expanded and a new appropriation is requested to begin a program for the treatment of emotionally disturbed children.

\* \* \* \*

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

We have recognized the difficulty that our municipalities now face in attempting to borrow on the present uncertain and costly market. To ensure that they will obtain essential capital loans, the Alberta Municipal Financing Corporation will resume its operations, but before doing so, you will be asked to consider certain amendments to the Act to broaden its scope by the inclusion of School Boards, Hospital Boards and other local authorities as members of the Corporation, with the right to use its facilities. Other amendments will request a higher maximum of guarantee on the Corporation's borrowings and will facilitate the administration of the Act by the Board of Directors.

\* \* \* \*

PUBLIC WELFARE

One of the main projects in the first year of our proposed five year program is the construction of 50 homes for aged people to be built in suitable locations throughout the Province, and a large home in each of the cities of Edmonton and Calgary. The estimates for our Public Works Department include a sum of \$9,000,000 to accomplish as much of this construction as possible next year. The total cost is expected to be \$16,000,000. A further sum of \$75,000 is required to complete the Rosecrest home for children in Edmonton.

MUNICIPAL ASSISTANCE

In its program of extended services, the Government will increase grants and benefits to local taxing authorities and to taxpayers. School boards will receive additional funds for the operation of their schools and increased grants will be made available to rural municipalities for construction and maintenance of their local highways. Substantial assistance will be continued towards the construction of schools and hospitals, for public welfare and in unconditional grants under the Municipal Assistance Act. The total direct assistance to municipalities is estimated to be \$87,340,500 for the next fiscal year.

Substantially increased benefits will be available to municipal hospital boards and to all residents under the Alberta Hospitalization



## THE BACK FENCE

Champion, Alberta.

Dear Sir:

I have read several copies of The Alberta Municipal Counsellor at the Champion Library. I find them very interesting and educational in government and municipal affairs. If you would send me a copy of this paper each month I would be grateful because I don't always get a chance to read the library copy.

Thank you,  
J. W. Ellis.

\* \* \* \*

Edmonton, Alberta.

Dear Sir:

Having recently visited your Department with a number of other students from the Faculty of Education, University of Alberta, I wish to thank you for your time, consideration and thoroughness which helped to make our visit very worthwhile.

Upon leaving you presented us with a copy of The Alberta Municipal Counsellor. I would appreciate receiving the monthly edition of this enlightening publication.

Yours sincerely,  
Paul W. Claydon.

\* \* \* \*

\*We receive a number of requests similar to the above every month—but these, we think, have something extra. All such kind words are gratefully noted, and the writers' names are added to our mailing list.

—Ed.

The correspondence section of The Alberta Municipal Counsellor is open to any reader for the discussion of any problem. Questions raised will be answered to the best of our ability. Letters may be signed with a fictitious name if that is desired, but we would ask that the real name of any correspondent be disclosed to the editor. All letters will be answered, but space and general interest must be considered for publication.

## LIAISON LIBRARY

### BOOK REVIEW

THE CIVIL SERVICE  
(Some Human Aspects)

By Frank Dunnill  
(George Allen and Unwin 225pp)

This is not an officially-inspired account of the civil service, but a private view of some of the more important and influential people in it and of their relations, formal and informal, with each other and with people outside the service. It attempts a portrait "as truth will paint it" of the administrative corps d'elite and of the executive and clerical aides who rub shoulders with them in the task of turning high policy into daily practice.

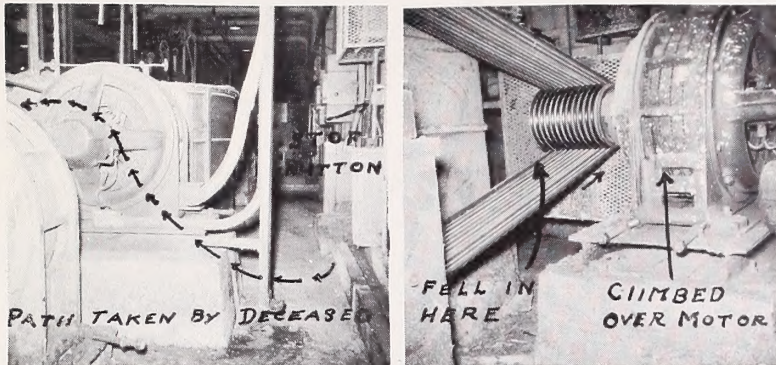
It shows, too, how officials are selected, deployed, promoted and conditioned by the service, to what pressures they are subjected, how power and influence are distributed among them and by what means they make known the nature of their wishes to that "timid staring creature man."

The influence of Parliament, of the lawyers and of the Treasury and its outposts in the departments; the uses and dangers of the semi-official approach and what have been called the internal discipline and folklore of the service are examined in some detail. The book is intended mainly as a corrective for those who have been fed either on uniformly complacent or on ill-informed and wildly critical accounts of the service. But it is so written and arranged as to make easy reading and to stimulate the interest and curiosity of the newcomer, for whom it provides a good deal of information about the structure and day to day working of government departments.

Benefits Plan. Sufferers from mental diseases, polio, tuberculosis and cancer will continue to be cared for, and welfare recipients will receive medical attention without charge to municipalities. This indirect assistance is estimated to cost \$33,747,799 next year and for total direct and indirect assistance to municipalities \$121,088,299 is provided in this budget, which is 47.9% of our income receipts.



## SCENE OF THE ACCIDENT



On February 28, 1959, a 38-year old Beaterman was decapitated when he fell into a V-belt drive.

No one witnessed the accident. Upon investigation by this Department it appeared the accident happened in the following way:

The deceased, after pushing the stop-button on the motor control, climbed over the 130 h.p. motor and in doing so, slipped and fell into the V-belts as the drive was coasting to a stop.

The V-belts were guarded on three sides; the deceased fell into the side not guarded which was considered by the company an out-of-the-way location. He was known to have crossed this way on previous occasions, taking a shortcut to the front of the beater instead of using the walkway around the beater.

The recommendation made by the Coroner's Jury was that steps be taken to acquaint persons with all safety regulations; also that these regulations must be enforced.

Section 3A of the Factories Regulations of Power Transmission Machinery and Equipment states, "All driving machinery shall be substantially guarded."

W.E. Sutton, Chief Factory Inspector •

### REPORT ON PLANNING BOARD

(From Page 3)

Six District Planning Commissions are now operating in Alberta. These are composed of representatives from towns and municipal districts centering on Edmonton, Calgary, Red Deer, Lethbridge (the Oldman River District Planning Commission) Medicine Hat and Grande Prairie.

The Grande Prairie District Planning Commission established in July, 1958, consists of representatives from the City of Grande Prairie the County of Grande Prairie, 5 towns, 6 villages 3 municipal districts and 7 improvement districts.

Other centres joined various district commissions during 1958. For example, the town of Montgomery joined the Calgary District Planning Commission while the villages of Bowden and Blackfalds joined the Red Deer District Planning Commission.

With rare exceptions, the commissions are popular with their member municipalities and are increasingly valuable as a means of reducing the volume of work performed by the Town and Rural Planning Branch. Together with the Technical Planning Boards of Edmonton and Calgary, the commissions are responsible for subdivision approvals and technical advice on local planning to 64 per cent of the population of Alberta.

Sixty-nine municipalities are now members of district planning commissions and in 1958 contributed \$110,000 towards the operating costs of the commissions.

An equal amount was contributed by the Provincial Government.

### EXPANDED PROGRAM

An expanded program of planning surveys is now well underway in the city of Wetaskiwin and the towns of Lacombe, Taber and Cardston. Negotiations are also underway for a similar survey in Drumheller. The surveys are being conducted in close association with local councils and citizen groups in each centre and this should ensure that the resulting plans are actually put into effect.

Following a number of enquiries from oil companies actively engaged in the development of the Swan Hills oil field north west of

Edmonton, a meeting was held in January of representatives of all the companies known to be operating in the area together with representatives of government departments concerned. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the location and development of a proposed new town to serve the area.

Various factors were discussed and arrangements were made for the Branch to investigate a suitable location for the town. Investigations are now proceeding under the general direction of the Provincial Planning Advisory Board. All available information has been mapped by the Branch and a ground survey has been started.

### PROBLEMS of GROWTH and CHANGE

Comparing current planning problems with those of previous years, many of them are similar to those described in the First Annual Reports of the Board in 1930-31. These are the perennial problems of urban growth and change, and many municipalities still have not used the powers contained in the legislation to develop the machinery for dealing with them.

However, the most critical current planning problems are those resulting from the accelerated expansion of the major cities, particularly the two metropolitan centres of Calgary and Edmonton. The municipalities, both urban and rural, affected by this expansion are acting jointly to work out suitable plans for orderly, economic development to accommodate this expansion and to provide desirable living and working conditions for the greatly increased population. Through the District Planning Commissions these municipalities have the opportunity to avoid such problems as the speculative fragmentation of land in advance of need, and scattered substandard fringe development—both of which create bad living conditions, municipal financing problems, excessive property taxes, loss of easy access to unspoiled countryside and ugly and squalid approaches to cities, and insurmountable (except at very high cost) obstacles to economical and attractive expansion of industrial, business and residential areas.

It cannot be assumed that the creation of an effective regional planning authority will be sufficient alone to deal with the problems of metropolitan growth. Nor can it be assumed that the problems that are still unanswered in most major cities of the continent will be answered in this province overnight, or without a period of trial and error. However, 8 years of growing experience in the operation of district planning indicate that the basic approach is sound and with sufficient patience and goodwill can be made effective in dealing with many avoidable problems that are still common to most cities.

As development pressures increase, some criticism must be expected from individuals whose private interests conflict with public controls over the subdivision and use of land. In practice these have been relatively few, viewed against the tremendous volume and rate of development in the post-Leduc period. Furthermore, they must be compared with the little-recognized but nevertheless very great achievements in economizing and yet improving the standard of new development.

However, the criticisms require an answer. First, there must be public confidence that individual rights are adequately protected. Second, there must develop public understanding and support for planning, generating an effective demand for planning as an essential public service. The first answer will be considered during the coming year in terms of a reconsideration of the ways in which plans are made and adopted, and of the opportunities for individual appeal against a too rigid application of plans in practice. The second answer will be sought through the greater participation of a broad cross-section of the community in preparing plans, and through greater publicity for the content of plans and the objectives they are meant to achieve.

\* \* \* \*

There are 233 bridges on the 1,523 mile Alaska Highway.

### POPULATION SHIFT

In the years from 1951 to 1956, almost 92 per cent of the population growth took place in urban areas, while at the same time the rural population grew by only 174, - 144 - a rate increase of only 3.4 per cent. In 1956, two-thirds of Canada's entire population consisted of urban dwellers; in 1951, excluding Newfoundland, only 65.5 per cent of the nation's citizens lived in cities and towns. And at the turn of the century, the balance was almost the complete reverse, 62.9 per cent of the populace living in the country districts. (Moncton Times)



## PICTURE STORY

**EDUCATION STUDENTS  
TOUR DEPARTMENT**

**DEPUTY GREETES STUDENTS** - Angus Morrison welcomes a group of students to the Department. Fresh from the Legislative Building where they observed law makers in action girls carry souvenir booklets and notebooks.



**MUNICIPAL INSPECTION BRANCH** - Bruce Ramsay, Chief Municipal Inspector, outlines history of the Branch and duties of the Inspectors. Students listened closely but asked few questions.



**TOWN AND RURAL PLANNING** - Ralph Rookwood, Director, and Eric Browning, left, use model to illustrate one aspect of planning service.



**GENERAL OFFICE** - Through these wickets pass tax moneys paid by residents of Alberta's improvement districts. Mrs. Hawthorne and Mrs. Ahl demonstrate how they operate. Students later came inside for more information and a look at the greenery.



**TAX RECOVERY** - Supervisor Keith Switzer explains details of procedure followed by municipal officials regarding arrears of taxes and land sale policy.

(ALBERTA GOVERNMENT PHOTOS)



**FIELD SERVICE** - A. Isbister, Supervisor of Field Service and E.R. Rymer, Assistant Field Supervisor hold attention of students near the end of their visit. Scope of geography covered by improvement districts and variety of duties of field men proved a surprise.